

Commercial Advertiser

WALTER G. SMITH - EDITOR.

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When obscure little towns in the East are getting Carnegie libraries, Honolulu, one of the best known of all tropic capitals and the seat of an American Territorial government, ought not to go begging for one.

The hold-up man is not always genuine. Now and then he serves as the only possible excuse for a shortage. Not all hands that come back empty have been held up. Incidentally not all murderous assaults in houses show much real color of crime in the assay office.

Absentee duty for naval officers in war time derives much value from the appointment of Santiago prize money. Rear Admiral Sampson, who did not attend the battle, got \$25,797.44; Capt. Chadwick, who was on shore at the time, got \$11,775.10. Rear Admiral Schley, who was in command, has so far received \$149.53, and the captains of the Brooklyn and Oregon have got nothing.

Potomac poisoning crops out in the most unexpected ways. A multitude of people have eaten Morgan oysters at the Star counter without corporal harm, but along come three actors who eat, grow ill and one nearly dies. Other oysters in the same can are consumed by a fourth party without a resultant pang. The case is a singular one, but is matched by many others of potomac poisoning.

THE WARFARE ON DISEASE.

Among the great achievements of this age, none promise more brilliant results than the scientific treatment of disease. For a year or two past progress has been made along many lines, notably those leading to the cure or prevention of cancer, consumption and yellow fever. Lately, as we learn from the Ann Arbor correspondent of the New York Tribune, a laboratory discovery called "Benzozone" has been made which is to be a boon and make a business of seeing that it does not become a dead letter. What makes prohibition a success in the little towns of Maine? What but an approving public sentiment? What makes it a failure in the cities of Maine? What but the want of an approving public sentiment?

Shall this lesson be lost to Hawaii? Just now the temperance leaders are waiting for the Legislature to meet and pass a bill. But what good will the enactment of a bill do if the majority sentiment of the public shall be against it or shall approve of the liquor system as it is? Such a measure might as well be kept off the books for all the good it will do. What Hawaii needs is not more law at first, but a profound awakening on the subject of temperance and its evils. If such an awakening can be had, not only will a reform law come of it, but that law will not be permitted to fall in its operations or to fall into disuse.

GOOD ROADS AND STREETS.

The movement in favor of good roads on foot here is growing, and an article on "Good Roads Movement" in the January Review of Reviews is of interest and could be profitably studied by our public officials as well as those who are interested in the efforts to build a boulevard in this city. The writer of the article above referred to states a theory which is opposed to the usual opinion. He says: "It is very common for persons improving roads to suppose that large stones are necessary as a foundation to sustain the weight of the traffic. This is a mistake. It is neither necessary nor desirable to have any large stones in the roadbed anywhere. The entire roadbed should be formed by the use of angular fragments of rock reduced to a uniform size by crushing and screening. No stone should be used whose greatest dimension is over two and one-half inches. These angular fragments, so reduced to a uniform size and spread upon the roadbed, will consolidate under pressure with moisture so as to form one homogeneous mass that will not only be hard, smooth and durable, but it will be impervious to water, which is the greatest enemy of the road. So long as we can keep the roadbed dry it will be good."

The unwisdom of using big foundation stones may be seen on the principal streets of Honolulu, where the small stones in the upper strata being dislodged or swept away, the big ones remain to jolt carriages. In fact, most of the road-making here has, in times past, been unscientific.

It seems a pity that so much good land should be left bare within the limits of the town when there is such a demand for houses to rent at a fair or even a handsome rate of interest. Just now rentable dwellings are a better property than some varieties of stocks which, not long ago, were regarded as gilt-edged. Nor is there likely, for some years to come, to be any lessening of the demand. Mr. Campbell, the enterprising builder, has done something to relieve the pressure—indeed, he has done much—but it needs several Campbell's to provide all the small homes called for.

Porto Ricans and Japs Fight.

Because a Japanese laborer on the Ford's Island premises of Oahu plantation accidentally stepped upon the foot of a Porto Rican laborer employed in the same field, the Porto Rican angrily struck the Japanese. Another Japanese standing near by, struck the Porto Rican in return. The remainder of the Porto Ricans withdrew from the field, as the Japanese outnumbered them, and went back to the camp, where they notified the entire Porto Rican community, which started out to annihilate the Japanese laborers. On their way over to the Japanese quarters, they encountered a detachment of Japanese near the postoffice at Wai-keolu and an affray commenced which resulted in a large number of the Japanese being hurt and cut. The Japanese were completely routed, and the Porto Ricans were satisfied with the damage they had inflicted. Had the Porto Ricans continued until they had reached the main body of the Japanese there would undoubtedly have been a more bloody conflict.

TEMPERANCE REFORM.

Senator Tillman is the author of the Dispensary system in South Carolina, and what he says about its efficacy, after so many years of experience, must be given weight. In one of the current magazines the Senator declares that of the Federal licenses to sell liquor, issued in his State, ninety-four are being used by State dispensaries while the remaining 352 are held by illicit dealers. Of course the difference between this showing and that of Kansas, a Prohibition State, where the Federal licenses number 272, is greatly in favor of South Carolina, but the point remains that when a State, engaged in the liquor traffic and having a vested monopoly of it, is not able to keep from having its dispensaries outnumbered nearly four to one by ordinary saloons, the dispensary cannot be said to have made the reform it promised nor a reform which other States, desirous of controlling their liquor business, can safely adopt.

It may be granted that government control of the sale of liquor in Russia is absolute, without encouraging the belief that it can be made absolute in America. The difference is that of method between an empire and a republic. Russia has no juris to state between a citizen and his lawful duty to the government; it does not permit a writ of habeas corpus to interfere with the machinery of the law; its police must be everywhere and know everything; and all its punishments are swift and dire. No man in his senses will either become a moonshiner nor an illicit salesman of liquor in the Czar's domain. Even in Sweden conditions differ only in degree, but not in kind. There law is law; here it is law providing public sentiment sustains it or if lawyers cannot outwit it. Indeed, no law can be a success in the United States which lacks an assertive and fearless and absorbed public sentiment behind it—especially a State or municipal law or one of sumptuary nature.

It seems the precedent condition, therefore, when any kind of public reform is wanted in America, to work up public opinion in favor of it and then, if the reform is enacted, to keep this sentiment up to the mark. The trouble with our people is that they begin at the wrong end. They enact the law and then await the popular results. More wisdom would make the law stand aside until the people have been worked up to the point where they will receive it as a boon and make a business of seeing that it does not become a dead letter. What makes prohibition a success in the little towns of Maine? What but an approving public sentiment? What makes it a failure in the cities of Maine? What but the want of an approving public sentiment?

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HIGHWAY ROBBERY CAUGHT

(Continued from Page 1)

caught him after a short run, and both were taken to the police station. The officers reported that both men were armed with knives which they dropped to the ground when caught.

ALLEGED HOLD-UP OF TRAM CAR

STEPHEN BARRATT, a driver for the Hawaiian Tramways Company, reported late last night to the depot master at the Punahou stables that he had been robbed by a man whom he described as a seaman. At the time he was driving car 17 on Queen street between Nuuanu and Fort streets. The hour was about 10:55. The story of the hold-up spread quickly about the streets after Barratt's car started up Fort street, but no report was made of the matter to the police until Barratt had reached the Punahou stables.

Barratt says that the robber was to all appearances a sailor, and the only identifying feature about his assailant is that he wore a heavy beard. He said the robber came on the front platform, held a revolver to his head while he went through his pockets and took therefrom all the paper packages containing change. The scene of the robbery was on Queen street between the open space next to Brewer's building, and Wilder's ship chandlery. The odd feature about the story told by Barratt is that he did not call out for assistance after the man had jumped from the platform and sought the cover of the darkness overhanging the waterfront. There are generally police officers on Queen street, as well as the special night watchmen who constantly make tours around the blocks, while there are a number of native boatmen who sleep on Brewer's wharf.

The police department ascertained from the Tramways Company depot at Punahou that such a robbery had been reported at headquarters. Barratt states that at the time the man stepped upon the front platform there were no passengers in the car. He heard a man's voice asking him to give up the money he had in his coat pockets, and turned only to look down the muzzle of a revolver. Without waiting for Barratt to comply with his demand, the stranger is said to have used his left hand to extract the money packages from the driver's coat pockets, with which he left the car. Barratt says he continued on to Fort street, and after going a short distance up Fort street he told a night watchman that he had been held up.

The Advertiser made inquiry by telephone at the tramway stables and surprised the man in charge of the office; as the latter had not heard of the alleged robbery up to that time. While he was making inquiries, Barratt came into the office and reported the hold-up. The driver was called to the telephone and gave the following statement to the Advertiser:

"At about 10:55 last night, as I was driving my car on Queen street toward Punahou, a man boarded the car. He stepped up on the front platform beside me. I did not pay much attention to him, and the first thing I knew was to hear the man speak, and when he did so I looked around and into the muzzle of a revolver. I saw a pretty good-sized man standing beside me, dressed in a dark suit of clothes. He wore a thick beard and his hat was pulled down over his eyes. The only thing he said to me was:

"Give me all you have in your pockets."

"I didn't start quick enough, and the man went through my coat pockets where I keep my change, and then jumped off the car and disappeared in the direction of the waterfront. All the time he went through my pockets he kept me covered with his revolver. I rather think the man is a sailor. He couldn't do anything with the fare boxes, as they are stationary in the car."

HASSEN IS NOW WIRE INSPECTOR

Finding that the work of regulation of the electric wiring of the city promises to be a task of greater moment than was at first contemplated, James H. Boyd, Superintendent of Public Works, has selected for inspector of electricity for the city, W. F. C. Hassen. The appointment was made after Superintendent Frazee of the public lighting plant had been named for the place and had declined it, owing to the fact that he could not well undertake the task in connection with his other work. Inspector Hassen is now engaged in preparing a system of rules for the government of the placing of wires in public buildings, and this will consume about two weeks of his time. He has taken into his calculations the laws under which he will operate, and the systems which are being followed in other cities, and will make up a comprehensive series of regulations which are to govern the placing of wires in all buildings, and the repairing of lines already in use.

When this work is done the first task which is to engross the time of the inspector is the careful looking over the system of the government light station. There is believed to be much that should be done in this connection, and it has been the intention of the Superintendent of Public Works to have a general renovation of the system, and there is now on hand much material which is to be used in this work. There is shown to many points in the city where both the arc and incandescent systems are used, and the wires have become very old and will be replaced when possible. In addition to this work, Inspector Hassen will at once begin upon the installations in the city, which are under construction, so that there may be no departure from the regular system as adopted.

All Stuffed Up

That's the condition of many sufferers from catarrh, especially in the morning. Great difficulty is experienced in clearing the head and throat.

No wonder catarrh causes headache, impairs the taste, smell and hearing, pollutes the breath, deranges the stomach and affects the appetite.

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